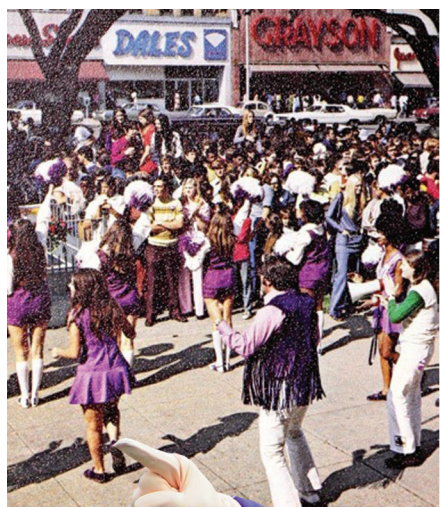


# SUMMER 2014 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





*Dr. Randall J. Webb,  
1965, 1966  
President  
Northwestern State  
University*

Dear Alumni:

For the past 18 years, I have had the privilege of serving as president of Northwestern State University. In April, I announced my plans to retire later this year. I will continue to serve as president until a successor is ready to take over.

I am confident the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System will choose a president who will continue to lead Northwestern State forward.

Serving as president has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life. It has been gratifying to play a small role in helping people obtain a college education and better their lives. Each May and December, I enjoy participating in commencement ceremonies and seeing the joy on the faces of our graduates and their family as they reach an important goal.

Northwestern State has an impressive list of accomplishments over the past 18 years. The president of the university often gets credit for the achievements, but I know none of them would have taken place without a dedicated faculty and staff, outstanding students and a supportive group of alumni and friends.

Due to the generosity of alumni and friends of the university, we have completed two successful capital campaigns creating new student scholarships and support for academic programs.

The university has implemented new admissions standards which led to increases in student retention and graduation rates. Our freshman classes have consistently scored above the state and national average on the ACT.

The overall quality of the university and its academic programs have gotten well-deserved national and international attention. For the first time, NSU was ranked as a Tier One Regional University by U.S. News and World Report. Our graduate program in nursing was also ranked as one of the top 100 in the country by U.S. News.

Northwestern State has also been able to renovate several campus buildings, modernize its housing and provide better services for students.

Thank you again for all you do to support Northwestern State. Each of you has played a valuable role in the university's success.



*Dr. Chris Maggio,  
1985, 1991  
Assistant Vice  
President of External  
Affairs for University  
Advancement*

My fellow alumni

As you know, the Northwestern State family is preparing for a state of transition as we move forward with new leadership. We are grateful to Dr. Randall J. Webb and Mrs. Brenda Webb for their dedication and service to this institution and, as I write this, are preparing for the torch to be passed to a new president.

Thoughts of transition bring to mind some of the traditions that we hold dear at Northwestern with one special tradition returning this fall. The NSU Demons will once again face the Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech on the gridiron in a revival of a classic rivalry that will bring back many memories for alumni who participated in bonfires, parades and revelry that took place in preparation for the State Fair Game.

The State Fair Game in Ruston is just one of many exciting events and reunions that are planned for alumni and friends. You can stay up to date with the latest news and announcements by visiting [nsula.edu](http://nsula.edu), [northwesternalumni.com](http://northwesternalumni.com) or following us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Tumblr.

Thank you for all you do in support of this university. It's an honor and privilege to be part of the Northwestern State family and I look forward to seeing you soon.

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#### NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

President ..... Joseph B. Stamey, Natchitoches, 1983  
1st Vice President ..... Tommy Chester, Natchitoches, 1969  
2nd Vice President ..... Charles "Buddy" Wood, Many, 1981  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Matt Bailey, Shreveport, 2003

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Assistant Vice President of External Affairs for  
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Associate Director of  
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Will Adams ..... Shreveport, 2009  
Matt Bailey ..... Shreveport, 2003  
Dr. P. Cade Brumley ..... Stonewall, 2002  
Jerry Brungart ..... Natchitoches, 1969, 1971  
Monty Chicola ..... Alexandria, 1979, 1980  
Caron Chester Coleman ..... Natchitoches, 2000  
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John Evans ..... Natchitoches, 1992  
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Mike Wilburn ..... Shreveport, 1975  
Dr. Leonard Williams ..... New Orleans, 1993

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Kyla Winey ..... Lafayette, SGA President

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Editor ..... Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011  
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Doug Ireland, 1986  
Jerry Pierce, 1961  
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Design/Layout ..... Beth McPherson Mann, 1975

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## Webb, longest-serving president, retiring

Northwestern State University President Dr. Randall J. Webb announced in April that he will retire later this year. Webb has served as Northwestern State's president since 1996. In July, he will become the university's longest serving president, surpassing Victor L. Roy, who was president from 1911 to 1929.

Webb said his retirement date will be "based on when my replacement can assume the official duties and responsibilities of the office of president. I want to ensure that we effect a smooth transition for the incoming president.

"Brenda and I owe a debt of gratitude to each and every member of the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System for their support of us," Webb said. "Thanks to them and ULS staff members, along with faculty, staff, students and alumni of the university, our term of office has been most enjoyable and productive." He added "We are grateful to many wonderful people that Northwestern has made marked progress and achieved many successes over the past years. Indeed, we feel our lives have been blessed beyond measure because of people who have graciously supported us and the cause of our beloved university."

Webb said he looks forward to the "transition to other areas of service in life" and to spending more time with his family.

***"The Board and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Webb for his commitment and service. Randy and Brenda Webb have both given so much of themselves over the past decades to Northwestern State and the Natchitoches community. Their contributions will long be remembered,"*** —UL System President Sandra Woodley.

Under Webb's leadership, Northwestern State has received well-deserved national and international attention for its academic programs and student accomplishments. University facilities have been renovated to better serve students, and two capital campaigns have set fund-raising records at the school.

Webb has led the move toward higher admissions standards at the university, which have resulted in students having greater academic potential and aptitude. Northwestern State has had its largest graduating classes in school history while Webb was president.

Retention has increased at the university, the average ACT score of students has gone up, and high school student leaders have enrolled at Northwestern State in record numbers. Webb has also expanded the university's outreach by spearheading the development at NSU of the largest electronic education and distance learning network of any university in Louisiana. Northwestern State offers courses and 34 accredited degree programs to students across the nation and world through Internet and compressed video. Several university online programs have been rated as being among the best buys in the United States.

Millions of dollars have been obtained during Webb's presidency for new and renovated facilities. The new facilities include the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center, Student Services Center, University Place I and II residence halls. Morrison Hall, the Family and Consumer Sciences Building, Williamson Hall, Russell Hall and Caspari Hall have been completely renovated and restored.



The university achieved Tier I status in the U.S. News and World Report ranking of regional universities on two occasions. The master's program in nursing was rated as one of the Top 100 by U.S. News.

A new Doctor of Nursing Practice program was created along with a Post Master's Certificate in Global Security and Intelligence and a master's in homeland security. The university has added new undergraduate academic programs in theatre, criminal justice, unified public safety administration, organizational leadership, addiction studies, liberal arts, general studies, communication and allied health under Webb.

Webb has held positions of leadership at the national level in intercollegiate athletics. He has served as chair of the board of directors of the Southland Conference and has been a member of the prestigious NCAA Executive Council and the NCAA Division I Board of Directors that oversee all major policy decisions by the governing body for major college sports. He served as the Southland Conference representative on the NCAA Presidential Advisory Group.

Webb will be honored with a retirement luncheon at the Natchitoches Events Center on Saturday, Aug. 28 in conjunction with the first home football game. The cost to attend is \$20. More information will be available as plans are finalized. To RSVP, visit [northwesternalumni.com](http://northwesternalumni.com) or call (318) 357-4414.

# WRECK TECH



Shreve Square 1986



## WRECK TECH - 2014

### College football rivalry will return Sept. 20

Northwestern and Louisiana Tech football teams will play Sept. 20 at Joe Aillet Stadium in Ruston in the first game between the schools in two decades. That event will elicit waves of memories of the State Fair series between the schools that became one of the most colorful and storied football rivalries in the South.

The universities that were founded in the late 1800s just 75 miles apart first met on the football field in 1907 and traveled back and forth for the next 30 years on winding, hilly North Louisiana roads for games at their home fields in Natchitoches and Ruston.

State fairs were growing in popularity after the depression years, drawing enthusiastic crowds to their carnival rides and sideshows. There were stadiums at some of the fairgrounds, including Shreveport, and scheduling games during the fairs brought more folks through the gates for both the fairs and the football.

Northwestern and Tech seized the opportunity to move their annual contests to the big city neutral site and the State Fair in 1937 when Franklin Roosevelt was president and the disappearance of Amelia Earhart was capturing the headlines.

Tech won that first meeting 14-0 in a series that would continue for 46 games and become the major athletic, social and entertainment event each year for players and students at the schools, alumni of both universities and sports fans across the region.

Octobers were colder in those years, it seems, and spectators jammed into the stands in sport coats and wool sweaters and old letter jackets. Fraternity guys came with flags and flasks and skinny ties, and sorority girls had chrysanthemum corsages with red and blue or purple and white ribbons.

Folks from Natchitoches and Ruston packed the Captain Shreve and Washington Youree hotels the day before the game and kicked up their heels at parties in hotel lobbies, reunions, receptions and planned and impromptu pep rallies.

All of that revelry in Shreveport was a continuation of week-long celebrations back on the campuses. Northwestern students had bonfires and parades to get pumped up for the game of the year, and Tech folks were doing whatever they did in quiet, conservative Ruston to have the Bulldogs frothing at the mouth by the time they got to Shreveport.

Most students and fans spent the day at the State Fair before moving to the stadium for the night games. They had corn dogs and cotton candy and fried stuff on sticks and paid their quarters trying to throw footballs through car tires to win stuffed animals.

There were dozens of twisting, gyrating carnival rides along the midway of the fairgrounds filled with squealing children and college kids that were much too cool to holler or maybe just saving their breath to yell for the Demons or Bulldogs that night.

The Northwestern-Tech State Fair battles had all the trappings of those big-time college games that were on black and white television sets on Saturday afternoons. There were marching bands on both sides of the stadium, cheerleaders flipping and yelling into megaphones on the sidelines, State Fair courts, flashing scoreboards with booming sound systems and all the rest.

Crowds at State Fair games were enraptured by the atmosphere of this friendly but intense rivalry that unfolded each year in the glow of Ferris wheel lights and with the echoes of carousel melodies drifting over the stadium to blend with the sounds of marching band music, clashing pads and helmets and roars from the crowd.

*continued on page 3*



*The Demons upset the Bulldogs in 1953.*

*continued from page 2*

Sports giants from both schools coached and played in these games at the fair. Names like Harry Turpin, Joe Aillet, Jack Clayton, Maxie Lambright, Charlie Tolar, Terry Bradshaw, Bobby Hebert, Leo Sanford, Johnnie Emmons, Jackie Smith, George Doherty, Sam Goodwin, Billy Brewer, Charlie Hennigan, Gary Reasons, Fred Dean, Pat Tilley, Joe Delaney and many more.

There were some unforgettable games in the series like Northwestern's 25-21 win in 1979 after eight straight State Fair losses. The victory was sealed when David Wright ended a late Bulldog drive with a shattering blow to a Tech receiver.

Then there was 1968 when Tech's Terry Bradshaw hit Ken Liberto on an 82-yard touchdown pass with 13 seconds left to defeat the Demons 42-39. Thousands of Northwestern students and fans had been celebrating a 39-35 lead with 25 seconds remaining.

Students left those games and all the others and strolled down the midway until the fair closed and then fox trotted and jitterbugged into the morning at hotel ballrooms, country clubs and less formal places. They relived the blocks and tackles and touchdowns and began anticipating the next year's State Fair game.

The series ended with the 1987 game a half century after it started. Northwestern and Tech moved in different directions and have played only once since the last State Fair contest.

But lasting memories were created and lifelong friendships formed and fortified on the field, in the grandstands and along the midway during the Northwestern-Tech State Fair football series that is deeply and permanently embedded in the history and lore of the two schools.

*Bonfire 1977*



*Parade 1971*



## ***Wreck Tech Tailgate Party***

*Hosted by Northwestern State's Alumni Association*

- **In Ruston** prior to the NSU-Tech match-up, near Memorial Gymnasium on the Louisiana Tech campus
- **Cost - \$20 per person** includes catered food and beverages (fried catfish, chicken and sausage jambalaya)
- **Live Entertainment - Cane River Soul**
- **Registration at [northwesternalumni.com](http://northwesternalumni.com)** as details are finalized



## KNWD Reunion slated for Homecoming weekend

Northwestern State University's student-run campus radio station, KNWD 91.7 the Demon, will commemorate its 40th anniversary by hosting a reunion of former station managers and staff in conjunction with Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Oct. 11.

A brunch in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union and studio tours in nearby Kyser Hall are planned for 11 a.m.-2 p.m., followed by tailgating in the KNWD tent near the Collins Pavilion prior to kick-off of the football game at 6 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$20, which includes food and beverage for the Alumni Tailgate and reserved ticket to the Homecoming game.

More information will be available as plans are finalized. Facebook users can like KNWD 91.7 FM the Demon and/or KNWD Radio 40-year Reunion for up-to-date information.

## Current Sauce reunion draws editors, staff for a look back at campus newspaper



An independent voice for students whose coverage evolved in tandem with cultural shifts and advances in technology is marking its centennial in 2014. Former editors of Northwestern State University's student newspaper, The Current Sauce, commemorated the anniversary in March with reflections on how reporting news and producing a student newspaper changed – and remained the same -- through the years and how their work at the Sauce provided a foundation for careers in news and other fields.

See Page 24 in the online Lagniappe section of Alumni Columns for a full story.

## Scott Mills: IT work for mission-driven organization has global impact

Scott Mills' job has taken him around the world supporting his organizations' efforts in protecting natural resources and the well-being of some of the most poverty-stricken people on the planet. As head of global IT for Conservation International (CI), Mills is responsible for all the technology that runs the company, overseeing service, support and solutions for the organization.

"Our company's mission is to protect natural resources and the natural environment, water and species so indigenous peoples can use it in a sustainable way," Mills explained. The initiatives involve working with governments, businesses and local communities, with technical infrastructure a crucial element of operations.

Mills' job is to unify the CI's global collaboration platform so people can work together and use technology to implement strategic plans.

"The scope of the company is global," Mills said. "We work a lot in the southern hemisphere, South America, southeast Asia, Africa, Madagascar. We also work in the northern hemisphere in fund raising, working with donors and foundations." Mills ensures that the company's infrastructure functions correctly, even in places where there are few power sources and little connectivity.

"Part of the role is to boil the scope down to a clear set of priorities, despite the number of countries we work with," he said. "Technology changes all the time, so there are always significant major projects going on that keep us really busy."

Mills has been with CI for three years, but worked with mission-driven organizations for 15 years. He was previously vice president and CIO of AED, formerly the Academy for Educational Development, a non-profit focused on education, health and economic development that operates in the U.S. and 150 other countries.

Mills graduated from Northwestern State in 1992 with a degree in journalism. He later earned his master's degree in English with an emphasis in linguistics at NSU and did post-graduate work at MIT. The bridge from journalism to technology was formed during his days as a graduate student when he played a role in establishing an on-line writing center at NSU and discovered an aptitude for technology. He was director of computer assistant instruction and systems engineer on campus and later director of developmental studies and technology coordinator. His next step was to serve as the first executive director and CIO in the Office of Information Systems and Technology Resources at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. He joined AED in 2000 as chief technology officer. At CI and AED, Mills' work enables global collaborations among dozens of countries and thousands of staff, contractors and employees.

His experiences at NSU, he said, were invaluable in fostering in him a sense of teamwork and mentoring.

***"What brought me to NSU was Bill Brent and the Spirit of Northwestern. Of all that I learned at NSU, being part of a team and that team being part of a larger organization was most meaningful. It's helped me most in my career."***

Mills was born in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and his father's career with the Air Force brought him to attend junior high and high school in Bossier City. Mills, who lives in the Washington, D.C. suburbs, is married with two children and two stepchildren. He and his wife Lauren recently welcomed their first grandchild. He travels frequently with work taking him around the world.

***"I am blessed in my career to go to so many places, meet so many amazing people. I've seen 40 countries in the last 10 years. These organizations have a real impact and you feel good to go to work, knowing you are having an impact on people's lives that are much, much less fortunate."***

For more information on Conservation International, visit [conservation.org](http://conservation.org).

### On the Bookshelf

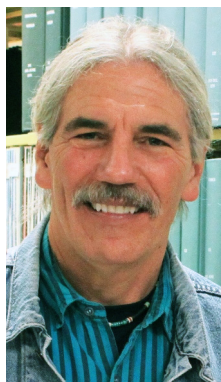
**Carin Link Wilson** (2000) published the story of the adoption of her and Anthony Wilson's (2000) son as a contributing author in "Life By Heart," by Elle Febbo.

"Right there, on the opposite side of a single cinder block wall, was a very young woman who was carrying a child who could quite possibly become my own."  
~from "Life By Heart."

In this book, various inspiring stories of creativity, courage, and spirit guide readers to shift their perspectives.

In "Life By Heart," Carin shares the unique story about the adoption of her son from the beginning stages of the process to the ongoing open adoption relationship she shares with her son's biological family. "Life By Heart" is the winner of the Top 12 Spirit-ed Woman Book List and can be purchased on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). For more information, go to [www.lifebyheart.com](http://www.lifebyheart.com).

## Dan Flores, expert on the American West, shares knowledge of flora, fauna, people and history



Dan Flores

Dan Flores, a prolific author and acclaimed expert on the American West, considers himself an environmental historian.

Flores retired recently as the A.B. Hammond Professor of Western History

at the University of Montana in Missoula and the scope of his expertise on the American west encompasses geology, economics, environmental studies, ecology and Native American culture. As a historian and restoration advocate, he writes and lectures frequently, examining many facets of the art, geography, food, people and wildlife of the western United States, fostering connections with the past, present and future of the American West.

"I borrow from every field -- anthropology, archaeology, climate studies, wildlife studies -- and rely on science a lot," he said.

Flores has written eight books and penned numerous essays and magazine articles on the environment and culture of the American west, garnering a long list of honors from historic associations and literary societies. He participates in 12-15 speaking engagements per year and his next book, "Coyote America: The Coyote in Continental History and Culture" will be published in 2016.

"It tells the whole story of the coyote in America, which, unlike wolves or bears, are distinctly native to North America," explained Flores who became fascinated by the animal while deer hunting as a teenager. The book examines how that creature has survived, despite -- or perhaps because of -- human encroachment.

Recently, an article he penned as a result of his coyote research won the 2014 Western Heri-

tage/Cowboy Hall of Fame prize for best magazine article on the West, the third time one of his articles has won that prestigious prize.

Flores grew up in Caddo Parish, but his father's family has deep roots in central Louisiana and Natchitoches where they originally settled in the Bayou Pierre area near present-day Carmel. The family relocated during the oil boom of the 1930s and he graduated from North Caddo High School in Vivian.

"I was always interested in history and reading books," he said. "Our town was too small to field a baseball team in the summer, and I was free to roam the hills and got interested in nature and read a lot. I read about Lewis and Clarke and the history of the American West and later I began to learn about my own family history." He cited Mari Sandoz, a Nebraskan chronicler of pioneer life, as an early influence.

As an undergraduate at Northwestern State in the late 1960s, where he also played baseball, Flores became acquainted university archivist Katherine Bridges, who recognized his surname and asked if he had family in the area. He discovered that his ancestors had married into the Lafitte family near Los Adaes and one Lafitte ancestor was the designated trader to the Caddo Adai from 1790 into the 1820s.

Bridges encouraged Flores to continue his studies and earn his master's degree at Northwestern. Because of his interest in Lewis and Clark and the fur trade, she acquainted him with the diaries of little-known explorers Anthony Glass, Thomas Freeman, Peter Custis and John Maley who produced accounts of their experiences exploring the southwestern regions of what

was then the newly-acquired Louisiana Purchase territory with Natchitoches as their point of departure.

"She showed me three documents -- the Glass journal, the Freeman and Custis journal and the Maley journal."

From those, Flores produced three books. The first, "Jefferson and South-

western Exploration: the Freeman and Custis Accounts of the Red River Expedition of 1806," covers an account of the second great western expedition commissioned by Thomas Jefferson that followed the Red River. Unlike the famed Corps of Discovery Expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the Freeman and Custis expedition was considered a failure and is little-known outside academia.

From the Glass journal he wrote "Journal of an Indian Trader: Anthony Glass and the Texas Trading Frontier, ca. 1773-1810" and from the Maley journal his graduate thesis, "John Maley Journal: Travels and Adventures in the American Southwest 1810-1813."

The Maley journal is the second half of that explorer's account of his experiences venturing into Oklahoma, Arkansas and down to New Orleans, but Flores has questions about its authenticity as a first-hand account.

"With Glass, you can track his journey across the landscape to Louisiana and Texas and just about know where he was day by day," Flores said. "Maley may have talked to people and then written the account as if he had done those things, especially in regards to his description of the upper Red River."

Flores describes Natchitoches as "the St. Louis of the Southwest where expeditions to Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado were put together." It was also an important center for the fur trade and the horse trade.

During his career, Flores has appeared in several documentaries about the American West and last year accompanied chef and food/travel writer Anthony Bourdain through New Mexico on Route 66 for an episode of "Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown" on CNN. His knowledge of the people, history and geography covers the broad sweep of the American west from Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas to the Southwest, the Great Plains and the northern Rockies.

"I didn't want to keep writing the same book over and over. I followed my interests and they've been pretty diverse."

His work intentionally creates awareness of the mark European-Americans

*continued on page 7*

made on the landscape during westward expansion, as well as recent advances with initiatives to bring back wolves and bison. But not all audiences want to hear the same message.

"People's interests in California are different from those in Nebraska. How can you make a living from the land while respecting the environment? It becomes a political issue."

Now, after years of dividing his time between the Bitterroot Valley of Montana and the Galisteo River Valley outside Santa Fe, Flores retired in May and is living in Santa Fe fulltime. He has another book project underway, tentatively titled "Charismatic Megafauna of the American Great Plains." He and his fiancé are spending the summer in Paris and Spain and plan an 18-day float trip down the grand Canyon with friends this fall, a trip he has long postponed because of teaching duties.

It's unlikely that he will cease exploring facets of the American west from new perspectives and encouraging others to become engaged in the 21st century West.

"We are trying to recover the wonderful diverse mix of wildlife and habitats that made up the West in the 19th century, when it was a wonder of the world. People came from Europe like they went to Africa to see native peoples living close to the earth and animals like buffalo, grizzlies and wolves. From the 1840s through the 1880s, much of it was erased. It's as if we got into this wonderfully rich, diverse land and in about four decades, driven to make money, destroyed it. Ever since, people have wondered how to recover it. People suspect the best ecology that was ever here was the one that nature created."

# Spotlights



*Stephanie Sandwell*

**Stephanie Richardson Sandwell**, who earned a bachelor's in math education at NSU in 1994, is employed as a preventive health specialist at Innovative Business Consultants in Sioux City, Ia. She also received personal trainer's certification from the American College of Sports Medicine.

**Doyle Williams**, dean emeritus of the Sam M. Walton College of business at the University of Arkansas, was inducted into Louisiana State University's E.J. Ourso College of Business in April. Williams is a senior scholar in the Department of Accounting at Kennesaw State University. A native of Ajax, he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting at Northwestern State in 1960 and received his master's and Ph.D. in accounting from LSU in 1962 and 1965 respectively.

Williams enjoyed a long and successful career at universities in Texas, California, Arkansas. He has also been actively involved in numerous professional associations.

Honors for Dr. Williams include the Beta Alpha Psi National Council Accountant of the Year Award, the California Society of CPAs Distinguished Professor Award, the USC School of Accounting's Distinguished Service Award, the AICPA's Outstanding Accounting Educator Award, and the Federation of Schools of Accountancy Faculty Merit Award. He has received the Arkansas Society of CPA's Lifetime Achievement Award in Education and, in 2002, was awarded the

American Institute of CPAs' Gold Medal, the organization's highest honor.

**Mike Little** was named the 2013 Liberty, Texas, Citizen of the Year for excelling in almost every area of community involvement, not only professionally but also through church work, civic organizations and in caring for those who are most in need.

Little is a Winnfield native who attended Northwestern State from 1972-1975 and then moved on to the Baylor University School of Law.

After graduating there and passing the bar in 1977, he began his legal practice in Liberty. He became district attorney in 1983 and never faced an opponent until stepping down in 2012. Last year he was appointed as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Liberty, giving him a chance to see the courtroom from the other side of the bench.

He is founder, first president and board member of the Bridgehaven Children's Advocacy Center, founder and project director of the D.A.R.E. Unit for Liberty and Chambers counties, project director for the Liberty/Chambers Counties Narcotics Trafficking Task Force, founder and project director of the Liberty County Citizens Police Academy, co-founder of SOLO (Sex Offender Location Operation) Unit of Liberty and Chambers counties. He has been an adjunct criminal justice instructor at Lee College.

Little is a longtime member of the Liberty Rotary Club, where he has twice been selected for the Paul Harris Fellow award. He has served two terms as a director of the Liberty-Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. He has been a former HOST instructor and a former Junior Achievement instructor at area elementary schools. He has served First Baptist Church in Liberty as a member, deacon and as church moderator.

He and his wife Lisa have two sons. The oldest, Michael, lives in Carbondale, Illinois, where he is a radiation oncologist. Michael's wife Anna is a pediatrician internist and they have two sons, Tyler and Chase. Their second son Mark is an attorney with the firm of Bracewell & Guiliani in Houston. Mark's wife Lauren is a teacher at Kimmie Brown Elementary in Dayton, Texas.

# Long Purple Line Induction



Northwestern State University honored distinguished alumni by inducting them into the University's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line. From left are Carroll Long, Dr. Hayward W. "Sonny" Hargrove, Denise Lewis Patrick, Sen. Gerald Long, Greg Vesey and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. The inductees were honored with a luncheon and recognized during the President's Command Performance, a spring gala celebrating the School of Creative and Performing Arts.



**Bill Brent** was honored as the inaugural inductee into the School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame in April. The induction took place during The President's Command Performance, a celebration of the arts that showcased the talents of students and faculty. From left are Dr. Jeff Mathews, director of bands; Brent and Greg Handel, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts. If you would like to nominate an individual for the Long Purple Line, call the NSU Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 or e-mail Haley Blount at [blounth@nsula.edu](mailto:blounth@nsula.edu).

## NSU publications digitized, available for viewing online

Archived issues of many Northwestern State University publications are now available for use. Issues of the Potpourri yearbook, Alumni Columns magazine and Argus literary magazine can be accessed by going to [traditions.nsula.edu](http://traditions.nsula.edu) and clicking on digital archives.

"These digital archives are a treasure trove for anyone interested in the history of Northwestern State, major events and campus life," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Online documents are searchable pdf files. Names of former students can be entered into a search box and will be highlighted where they appear in the publications.

The Current Sauce will be loaded within the next month as part of its centennial celebration. Plans are also underway to digitize college catalogues and graduation programs.

For more information, visit [traditions.nsula.edu](http://traditions.nsula.edu) and select "digital archives" or visit [northwesternalumni.com](http://northwesternalumni.com) "Get Connected."



*Carolyn Roy and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb*

## NSU awards Nth Degree to Natchitoches Times editor

Northwestern State University awarded an Nth Degree to Carolyn B. Roy, a 1965 graduate of the university who has served the community as editor of the Natchitoches Times for more than 20 years. The Nth Degree is one of the university's highest honors and is bestowed for going the extra mile in meritorious service to mankind. It is presented to those whose professional responsibilities and various other roles in making the world better are carried out to the Nth Degree.

Northwestern State presented the award during a March 6 basketball game.

Roy began her career immediately after graduation in 1965, going to work for the Natchitoches Enterprise, which was shortly thereafter absorbed into the Natchitoches Times. After three years, she took time off to have a family that includes Mark Roy and Julie Roy Longlois, both NSU graduates. Longlois is employed at NSU as coordinator for the Carl Perkins Programs in the Office of Electronic and Continuing Education.

Roy returned fulltime to the Natchitoches Times as lifestyles editor in 1992 and a year later took over the news editor's job. Over the years, the Natchitoches Times earned several awards from the Louisiana Press Association for reporting and design and layout, the most notable of which was a second place among state publications of all sizes for coverage of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

"During my tenure at the Natchitoches Times, I have had the pleasure of supervising approximately 12 NSU graduates in the news room and numerous NSU interns," Roy said.

Roy is a member of the Natchitoches Rotary Club, Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, PEO Sisterhood, Service League of Natchitoches and First United Methodist Church.

## Owens in on the ground floor of IBM development

Northwestern State University alumnus Ryan Owens, is in on the ground floor of an economic development project state leaders say will be transformational for the Baton Rouge area and Louisiana.

Owens, a May 2013 graduate in computer information systems, is a data specialist for IBM in Baton Rouge. He was one of the first 100 employees IBM hired for a first of its kind software development center in downtown Baton Rouge that will create up to 800 jobs. Owens is one of several Northwestern State graduates hired by IBM.

Owens works with clients of the Domestic Delivery Center to meet their data needs. The IBM center delivers technology services to clients, such as application development, application management and system integration to its clients. For example, Owens may work with a bank that needs data converted from one programming language to another.

"I do whatever a client needs done," said Owens, who did information technology work for a law firm before joining IBM. "There is quite a bit of travel involved. I have been all over the U.S. and could be travelling internationally soon."

In his work, Owens uses Extract, Transform and Load tools such as Informatica, Data Stage and Gladstone. He also works in COBOL, which he learned at Northwestern State.

"After I completed a class in COBOL, I never thought I would use it again," said Owens. "I told (Instructor of CIS) Mrs. (Barbara) Russell I was so glad she taught that to me. Without that knowledge, I would not be as successful. I'm still learning. When I began this job, I had a month of training and it continues."

The center will move into a new eight-story building next year.

"It's an exciting time to be here working for a company like IBM. There's a lot of adapting and learning as we go, but that's good," said Owens.

A New Orleans native, Owens is a graduate of St. Augustine High School. He was "Vic" the Demon at NSU and was a member of Theta Chi and Demon Volunteers in Progress. Owens was active in the Student Activities Board and was an orientation leader in the Freshman Connection program. IBM selected him to represent the company at Northwestern State's Spring/Summer Job Fair.

"Northwestern State gave me everything I needed to go out and work for



*Ryan Owens*

a major corporation," said Owens. "The skill set I acquired is something I use every day. I learned both networking and programming. The networking was useful in my previous job and the programming skill is needed now."

More information on IBM's plans in Baton Rouge is available at [ibmlouisiana.com](http://ibmlouisiana.com). You can learn about Northwestern State's computer information systems program is at [business.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems-home](http://business.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems-home).

## Dill Family Scholarship goes to student who overcame challenges

A Northwestern State University teacher candidate who overcame the challenges of learning with dyslexia is this year's recipient of the Dill Family Perseverance Award in Education, annually presented to a student pursuing a degree through NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development.

Victoria Pietz of Lake Charles met with members of the Dill family who established the scholarship in honor of three sisters and a niece who attended Louisiana Normal, as NSU was known until 1944, and became teachers. Three generations of the Dill family, whose roots are in Ascension Parish, contributed to create the scholarship that is intended for a student who demonstrates character in overcoming hardships and has a strong desire to become an educator. The award is a one-time gift to the selected student, who must have a 2.6 or better grade point average when nominated for the award.

In her application essay, Pietz described her difficulties as a dyslexic youngster learning to read, write and spell and how a fourth grade teacher had a lasting influence by helping her develop strategies to learn. In high school, she struggled with another teacher who didn't understand her condition, but she persevered and graduated from Sam Houston High



*Victoria Pietz, center, is this year's recipient of the Dill Family Perseverance Award in Education. Seated from left are her parents, Lynne and Michael Pietz of Lake Charles. Standing are members Dill family, Charles Dill, Elaine Dill, Carolyn McGill, David McGill, Janet Shafer, Connie Kenney and Lynne Dill. The Dill Family Perseverance Award in Education is awarded to a Northwestern State University student who has overcome hardship in their desire to become a teacher.*

School. Pietz is now an elementary education major who hopes to help others, especially students with exceptionalities and "help every child be the best person they can be." She will begin student teaching next spring and graduate in May 2015.

Members of the Dill family met with Pietz and her parents, Lynne and Michael, last spring. Each described the challenges they and their family members overcame during their pursuit of a degree.

"The Dill family had students like

Victoria in mind when they established the scholarship," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb said. "Victoria has a loving spirit and overcame challenges with a desire to help others."

Northwestern State's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development is marking its 130th anniversary this year. The university was originally founded in 1884 as Louisiana's designated school for teacher training. For more information on the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development, visit [education.nsula.edu](http://education.nsula.edu).

### Northwestern State seeking nominations for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for the Hall of Distinguished Educators for 2014. Nominees must have graduated from Northwestern State's College of Education at least 30 years prior to nomination. Inductees will be honored during a brunch and induction ceremony at the Teacher Education Center during Homecoming festivities. The deadline to submit nominations is July 20.

Anyone who would like to nominate an outstanding College of Education alumnus who has had a distinguished career in education should send the nominee's resume and other documentation outlining the reason for the nomination to NSU Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development, c/o Janet Broadway, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

Additional information is available by calling Broadway at (318) 357-6278 or emailing [broadwayj@nsula.edu](mailto:broadwayj@nsula.edu).



Casey Harris of Folk Polk and Taylor Hickman of Natchitoches are recipients of the Charlie Seale Scholarship benefiting Northwestern State University students earning degrees in computer information systems, established by donors Jennifer and Dave Thornton, and Diane Thornton. From left are Harris, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director of the NSU School of Business; Dr. Austin Temple, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Business; Taylor Hickman, and his father Darryl Hickman.



Stephanie Korn of Natchitoches is the recipient of the Melanie McMillin Scholarship in Nursing, established by Jennifer and Dave Thornton, and Diane Thornton, to honor McMillin, a nursing instructor. From left are McMillin family members Ben Wisenbaker, Morgan Wisenbaker and Cheryl McBride, the honoree Melanie McMillin, scholarship recipient Stephanie Korn and her mother Melissa Korn.



Jeanie Tassin of Marksville is recipient of the Frances Hutson Scholarship in Nursing to benefit a student in NSU's graduate nursing program. From left are Tassin, Hutson, for whom the scholarship is named; Deborah Moore, director of student services for NSU's College of Nursing and Allied Health; NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb and Dr. Chris Maggio, assistant vice president for external affairs.



## Family donation funds scholarships for CIS, nursing

Northwestern State University hosted a reception to honor donors and recipients of scholarships established to benefit nursing and computer information systems students. These include the Charlie Seale Scholarship in Computer Information Systems in the amount of \$6,000 per year, the Melanie McMillin Scholarship in Nursing in the amount of \$4,000 per year and the Frances Hutson Scholarship in Nursing in the amount of \$2,000 per semester.

Diane Thornton of Pineville, along with her son and daughter-in-law Dave and Jennifer Honzell Thornton of Natchitoches, established the scholarships to honor three individuals who impacted Dave and Jennifer's education and career paths, Melanie McMillin, Frances Hutson and Charlie Seale. McMillin and Hutson, both NSU graduates, are nursing instructors who positively influenced Jennifer Thornton's training as a nurse. Seale was a vo-tech instructor who encouraged Dave Thornton to continue his education and earn a degree.

"We are here to thank the generosity of this family, whose contributions will help a lot of students," said Dr. Chris Maggio, assistant vice president for external affairs. "It is unique to have a contribution that benefits students in different areas and these areas – nursing and computer information systems -- are some of our best."

Stephanie Korn of Natchitoches is recipient of the Melanie McMillin Scholarship in Nursing, an award presented to a nursing student classified as a sophomore, junior or senior. Senior-level students must be in clinicals. Recipients may be eligible to receive the scholarships for up to three years. Recipients must maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average and demonstrate a financial need. The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$2,000 in the fall and spring semesters. Korn is a fourth-level clinicals student and will graduate in August.

Jeanie Tassin of Marksville is recipient of the Frances Hutson Scholarship in Nursing, an award presented to a student in the graduate nursing program who earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northwestern State. The scholarship is awarded annually, but recipients may reapply if qualifications are met. The student must maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average and demonstrate a financial need. The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$2,000 in the fall and spring semesters. Tassin is earning a graduate degree in nursing.

Taylor Hickman of Natchitoches and Casey Harris of Fort Polk are recipients of the Charlie Seale Scholarship in CIS, presented to a sophomore, junior or senior-level student majoring in Computer Information Systems. The length of the scholarship is three years if all qualifications are met. Recipients must maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average and demonstrate a financial need. The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$3,000 in the fall and spring semesters.

"These are the kinds of scholarships in which individuals are being honored for their influence as teachers and we thank the donors for their generosity," Maggio said.

Thornton also established the Barbara Russell Scholarship in Computer Information Systems. A recipient will be named later this year.

*Jennifer and Dave Thornton, seated, and Dave's mother Diane Thornton established three separate scholarships to benefit NSU students pursuing undergraduate degrees in nursing and computer information systems and graduate degrees in nursing.*

## Iron bench commemorates 60th anniversary, deep ties to NSU



The children of Bill and Justine Shaw recognized the couple's 60th wedding anniversary by placing a wrought iron bench on the campus of Northwestern State University in their honor.

"Because of their strong commitment to both education and family and because this commitment has been expressed so often in connection with Northwestern, we thought it appropriate to recognize their 60th year of marriage," said their son, Billy Shaw.

The couple's connection to the university extends for multiple generations. Bill Shaw met Justine McMurry on the NSU campus as she was leaving freshman registration in the fall of 1952. It was not the first time they had met. Bill had been in the McMurry home in Winnfield as a guest of Justine's older brother, James, who were both Northwestern students and members of ROTC who liked to hunt and fish together. Bill remembers that when he was first introduced to James' kid sister, she seemed "like a nice high school girl" that he paid little attention. According to Justine, however, there was more to it on her part. She told her mother after one of Bill's visits she had met the man she was going to marry. On the day the two reconnected at Northwestern, the situation changed in Bill's mind, too. Over the next two years of academics and college life, Bill and Justine were "an item" and on April 15, 1954, Justine's prediction was proven correct. The two were married as Bill was about to graduate.

Since then, Northwestern has continued to play an important part in Bill and Justine's life. Not only have multiple members of the McMurry and Shaw families attended and graduated from NSU, but both Bill and his older sister, Marie Shaw-Dunn, were members of the NSU faculty, each eventually serving as department heads until their retirements. Bill and Justine's children, Billy and Bobby Shaw are both graduates of NSU, as is their daughter-in-law, Jennifer Shaw. Additionally, Billy and Jennifer, following in Bill Sr.'s footsteps, are both presently members of the Northwestern faculty. Bill and Justine's grandchildren, Billy and Jennifer's son, James, and daughter, Ava, currently attend Northwestern Elementary Lab School and the Marie Shaw-Dunn Child Development Center, respectively. In May of this year, their granddaughter, Grace Shaw, will graduate from NSU. Their granddaughter, Jeanette Shaw, is currently enrolled.

The bench honoring the Shaws is located next to Williamson Hall where Bill finished his career as head of the Department of Industrial Education. On the bench are their names and the dates of their wedding and 60th anniversary. "It is hoped that it will be, not only a commemoration of the their lives and dedication to both the institutions of family and learning, but a reminder to all of their descendants who will, undoubtedly, populate this campus as students and employees of Northwestern State University," Billy Shaw said. "It is with their love, gratitude, and honor that all of the children and grandchildren of Bill and Justine offer to them this token of commemoration of their lives together."



*Dr. and Mrs. Bill Shaw Sr. were surprised with a special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary present when their children and grandchildren arranged for a bench to be placed near Williamson Hall inscribed with their names and the date of their wedding. The couple, who met as students at Northwestern, have many ties to the university. From left are Jennifer Shaw and Bill Shaw Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Shaw and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb.*

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## Recordings of NSU Bands available



**Supporters and past members of Northwestern State University's band can enjoy a number of past performances which are now available online.**

The band has teamed up with soundset.com to make CDs of marching band and concert performances available. Nine CDs dating back to 2002 are available and more will be added soon, according to Director of Bands Jeffrey Mathews.

"Former band members, parents and friends of the band regularly ask me how they can get recordings of past performances and now we have a quick, easy way to obtain them," said Mathews.

Half of the proceeds from downloads will benefit the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band.

**S**enior track and field competitor Justin Walker ran the fastest 100 meter dash in the world in 2014 when he won the Southland Conference championship May 11 in Conway, Ark., in a time of 9.95. Walker also won the 200 meter dash in 20.47, and ran a leg on the Demons' winning 4x100 meter relay team. He was named the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association national athlete of the week and the Southland Conference Male Track & Field Athlete of the Year.



## Stoehrs voted Coaches of the Year



*Coaches Brooke and Scott Stoehr with children Aubrey and Cooper*

After an impressive transformation of the Lady Demon basketball program in only their second season on the job, the husband-wife team of Brooke and Scott Stoehr were voted Louisiana Women's Basketball Coaches of the Year by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association.

The Stoehrs took Northwestern State into the NCAA Tournament two springs after taking over a program that had won only six times in 2011-12. They more than doubled that win total in their first season, defeating five of the top six teams in the Southland Conference including both co-champions.

That was a sign of things to come in 2013-14, when with their first full recruiting class, the Stoehrs guided the Lady Demons to a 21-13 record culminated by a Southland Conference Tournament Championship and NSU's third-ever NCAA appearance in women's basketball.

Northwestern beat Nicholls and top-seeded Lamar in down-to-the-wire contests before dominating traditional nemesis Stephen F. Austin 62-44 in the championship game. The Lady Demons drew a first-round NCAA Tournament matchup with No. 4 Tennessee on its homecourt in Knoxville, but were undaunted despite being over-matched. NSU trailed by two at halftime and tied the game in the second half before the Lady Vols finally took control and posted a 21-point win.

Northwestern posted 11 Southland Conference victories, the most since 2005. The Lady Demons' team grade point average was above a 3.0 for the fall and spring semesters, with five players posting a perfect 4.0 GPA in the spring.

# Hoops Alumni



**A**lmost three dozen Northwestern State basketball alumni gathered on Saturday, March 8 on Basketball Reunion Day as former players, coaches and staff for the Demons and Lady Demons enjoyed a luncheon and NSU's wins over Oral Roberts. The event brought back players whose careers traced back to the World War II era all the way up to 2011 Demons' senior Louis Ellis. Most of the alumni posed for a photo just after being introduced during halftime of the men's game.

## Stroud's support plays pivotal role in academic success of NSU basketball program

***What does summer have to do with the remarkable academic success by the Northwestern State men's basketball program?***

Everything. While many college students are enjoying a break, or working at summer jobs, several Demon basketball players are in class on campus, making progress toward their degrees.

Coach Mike McConathy points to the Demons' summer school program as a key factor in the extremely impressive graduation rate that is just shy of 90 percent for NSU basketball. That sets Northwestern State among the elite programs in the game, and sets up Demon players for success once the ball stops bouncing.

NSU alumnus Steve Stroud ('81) and his wife Lori have continued their support of the endeavor with an annual \$35,000 donation to assist with summer school expenses for men's basketball student-athletes.

"Our motto for Demon basketball is 'Championship Basketball with a Purpose' and we are able to embody that approach with the summer school opportunities that the Strouds make possible with their lead gift," said McConathy. "We've been fortunate to have been successful winning games but as fun as

it is to win, it's even more rewarding to see the young men in our program evolve as students, into graduates, and into productive citizens, many who are making a difference in their own communities by mentoring young people.

"What Steve and Lori do is, in a way,



*The Stroud Family's support of Demon basketball has been pivotal to the success of the program, especially related to the summer school program that has been a key factor in the remarkable academic success of the NSU student-athletes. From left are Lori, Samantha, Steve and Victoria Stroud, who live in Shreveport.*

paying it forward. Their support of summer school for our players has an immediate impact that is very positive, and through my 15 seasons, we have blessed to watch as many of our guys have created a ripple effect by getting their degrees and enriching the lives of many people they subsequently touch," he said.

For the second time, the Demon basketball program earned an NCAA Public Recognition Award for posting multi-

year Academic Progress Rate scores which rank in the top 10 percent among major college men's programs.

NCAA president Mark Emmert released a list of 40 basketball programs in early May as part of a larger announcement of over 1,000 teams that qualified

by posting APR results among the top 10 percent in their sports during a four-year period from 2009-2013. In three of the four years, NSU basketball posted a perfect APR score of 1,000 on the way to a multi-year rate of 996.

Among the other men's basketball programs recognized were Duke, Stanford, Florida, Kansas, Louisville, Michigan, Indiana, Notre Dame, Texas, Dartmouth, Colgate, Bucknell, Cornell, Penn, and Davidson. Northwestern State was the only Louisiana and Southland Conference basketball team in the elite group.

The APR measures eligibility, graduation and retention each semester and provides a clear picture of the academic performance for every Division I team in each sport. NSU's basketball program, led since 1999 by McConathy, also won an NCAA Public Recognition Award in 2005.

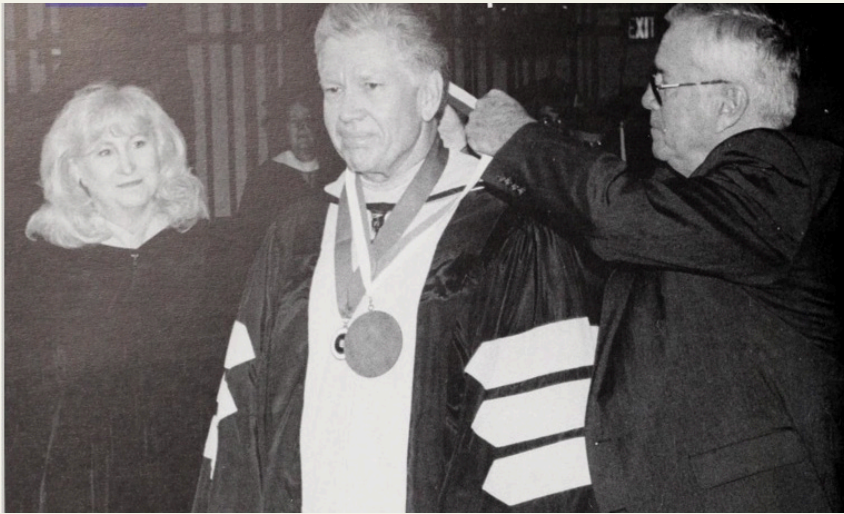
The Demons have graduated nearly 90 percent of their seniors during McConathy's 15 seasons while reaching seven Southland Conference Tournament

*continued on page 16*

## 2014 Demon Football Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time	TAILGATE at BAYLOR
<b>THUR.</b>	<b>AUG. 28</b>	<b>MISSOURI STATE</b>	<b>NATCHITOCHES</b>	<b>6:00</b>	Northwestern State University fans are invited to be a part of tailgating at Baylor University on Sept. 6. VIP arm-bands for fans interested in attending the Lonestar Tailgate at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame will be available to Demon fans for \$20 and will include parking, food and drink and live entertainment. Northwestern State's group will have reserved seating inside the Hall of Fame. Tailgating will begin three hours prior to game time.  Guests can register at <a href="http://northwesternalumni.com">northwesternalumni.com</a> or by calling (318) 357-4414.
Sat.	Sept. 6	at Baylor	Waco, TX	TBA	
Sat.	Sept. 13	at Southern	Baton Rouge	6:00	
Sat.	Sept. 20	at Louisiana Tech	Ruston	TBA	
Sat.	Sept. 27	Open			
Sat	Oct. 4	* at Southeastern Louisiana	Hammond	TBA	
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>OCT. 11</b>	<b>* INCARNATE WORD</b>	<b>NATCHITOCHES</b>	<b>6:00</b>	
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>OCT. 18</b>	<b>* SAM HOUSTON STATE</b>	<b>NATCHITOCHES</b>	<b>3:00</b>	
Sat.	Oct. 25	* at Central Arkansas	Conway, AR	TBA	
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>NOV. 1</b>	<b>* MCNEESE STATE</b>	<b>NATCHITOCHES</b>	<b>6:00</b>	
Sat.	Nov. 8	* at Abilene Christian	Abilene, TX	2:00	
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>NOV. 15</b>	<b>* NICHOLLS</b>	<b>NATCHITOCHES</b>	<b>6:00</b>	
Sat.	Nov. 22	* at Stephen F. Austin	Nacogdoches, TX	3:00	

# Looking Back



**"Northwestern can become a model of institutional integrity and configure prominently on the national scene,"** said Dr. Randall J. Webb during his investiture as the school's 17th on Nov. 20, 1996. During the ceremony, Webb listed goals he wished to accomplish, including providing and strengthening instruction, service and communication through the use of technology.

Webb called himself the most fortunate man in the world, "fortunate because I have the opportunity to lead toward greatness a university that I honor and love."

This year, Webb surpassed former president Dr. V.L. Roy, who served as president from 1911-1929, as the longest-serving president of Northwestern State.

## Guess Who



For many years, the Northwestern State student body elected young ladies for the State Fair Court, a long tradition in the rivalry against Louisiana Tech. Can you name the State Fair Court from 1959? The first five alumni to call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 with the correct answers will win a prize.

*Answers to the Spring Guess Who, sophomore class officers from 1970-71 were left to right: Bobby Harling, vice president; Greg O'Quinn, president; Jo Pease, secretary; and Jeanne Hebert, womens' representative.*

*The first person who guessed correctly was Diane Doucet Gallagher (1973) of Opelousas.*

*Stoud continued from page 15*

championship games, winning three. Northwestern has played in the NCAA Tournament in 2001, 2006 and 2013, winning games in 2001 and 2006, and has ranked among the nation's top scoring teams several times in McConathy's tenure, including second in the country in each of the past two seasons.

"Congratulations are again in order to coach Mike McConathy and his staff, along with the Athletic Department's academic support staff, for earning this well-deserved recognition as one of the best academically successful Division I men's basketball programs in the country," said NSU athletics director Greg Burke. "This level of success does not just happen, especially in a sport which has had its share of academic struggles on the national level. Rather, it takes a plan and it takes commitment. I credit all involved for staying the course and ensuring that our men's basketball student-athletes make academics a priority."

Eight players on the Demons' 2013-14 team had grade point averages over 3.0 during the fall semester.. Four-year seniors Gary Stewart and Tyler Washington graduated in May.

"It's a team achievement in the truest sense of the word," said McConathy. "Our players and coaches have a strong commitment to achieve academically and move toward graduation. That's a cornerstone of our program.

"It starts back home with their families and their coaches and other influential people who help instill in our guys the importance of putting their education first. Here, far beyond our basketball staff, our players are part of a culture of success in their academic pursuits, thanks to the care and inspiration provided by our faculty and our academic support staff, along with many people in the extended Demon basketball family who encourage our young men. The opportunity for our players to attend summer school is a key component in these guys having academic success," said McConathy.

While many Division I schools have experienced warnings and penalties, including bans from NCAA postseason play, for substandard APR scores, none of Northwestern State's teams has ever been negatively cited by the NCAA for its academic performance.



# In Memory

1942, 1958 – Maxine Aycock Southerland,  
March 10, 2014, Natchitoches

1947 – Johnnie Wise Mallory, May 13, 2014,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1951 – Leroy Caldwell, Nov. 17, 2013,  
Vidalia

1954 – Louis F. “Pop” Hyams Jr., April 10,  
2014, Natchitoches

1957 – Sybil Rhodes, Jan. 6, 2014, Natchi-  
toches

1960, 1967 – Mary Eston Williams, April 14,  
2014, Provencal

1966 – Mary Thrash Day, Dec. 9, 2013,  
Miamisburg, Ohio

1971 – Barbara Campbell Bruning, April 19,  
2014, Clarence

1972 – Bobbye Nell Fife Ellis, April 5, 2014,  
Natchitoches

1985 – Mark Birch, March 21, 2014, Katy,  
Texas

1991 – Eddie Beckwith Jr., March 27, 2014,  
Tallulah

1993 – Margaret Owen Guillory, March 6,  
2014, Clarence

1994 – Michael Christmas Thom, March 9,  
2014, Bellaire, Texas

2002, 2006 – Justin Owen, May 6, 2014,  
Shreveport

2012 – Yetta James Volff, March 2, 2014,  
Natchitoches

Frank Guinn, April 10, 2014, Atlanta, Ga.

Maxine Hays Prudhomme, March 2, 2014,  
Natchitoches

Pauline Miley Jones, March 26, 2014, Fer-  
riday

James. B. Anderson, April 9, 2014, Florian

Lorin Ballantyne Farr Jr., April 25, 2014,  
West Jordan, Utah



## *President's Command Performance*

The first annual President's Command Performance was held April 4 to celebrate the talents of students in the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts with entertainment provided by several musical ensembles and a special exhibition of alumni and faculty artwork while guests enjoyed a cocktail buffet. The occasion was held in tandem with a ceremony and concert honoring Bill Brent as the first inductee into the CAPA Hall of Fame. The evening began with a champagne toast for Brent and friends and concluded with Brent conducting the NSU Wind Symphony.





Graduates from 1964 participated in spring commencement exercises, receiving their second diploma from the university. On the front row from left are Mary Lou Davis, Janell Bullard, Linda Hammond, Maury Dennis, Dr. Dorothy Lary, Maureen Andrews King, Janice Freeman Powell, Nina Rougeau Bahruth, Dot Simmons, Carolyn Gewin and Albert Frederick. On the second row are Carol Hodges, Edward Vines, William Martin, Sue McCain, Sharon Cobb, Jarlon Magee, Wayne Hooper, Ernest Woodard, Pete Cormier, Janelle Price and Ed Price. On the third row are Mary Jean Groll, John Gholson, Kathy Brewton, Linda Rogers, Sandy McNeely, Virginia Swanson, Sandra Joyce Bullock, Margie Gongre, Jerry McGraw, James Braly, Tim Berry and Mary Ann Stephens Allen. On the fourth row are Lucy Hearron, Wilton Hearron, Frederick Combs, Lewis Hines and Suzanne Anding. On the back row are Allen Anding, Roy Gentry, Ralph Lemoine, Sonny Hargrove, Steve Murphy, Martha Smiley and Glenn Talbert.

# Alumni News



## 3 Demons @ 1 Texas High School

**Missy Dark Birth** (1997) submitted this picture of her with fellow teachers **Kathryn Lum Todd** (1973) and **Stephanie Todd Thapar** (2000) at Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, Texas. All three NSU grads teach math at that school. Missy writes: "Stephanie and I are hallmates teaching math, and her mother, a former teacher, subs for us regularly at Cinco Ranch High School."

## Three generations of Honduras family earn degrees at NSU

When Max Matute received his diploma from Northwestern State University in May, he was the third generation of his Honduran family to do so. Max's family has long ties to both the school and to Natchitoches and he plans for that tradition to continue.

Matute's family association with NSU began with two great uncles, his grandmother's brothers, Roberto Fiallos and Fernando Fiallos, enrolled at the university. In the 1980s, Max's mother, Carla Flores Gomez Fiallos, and her brother, Roberto Flores Gomez Fiallos, attended NSU. Roberto married a local girl, Suzette Cloutier.

"My mom graduated from high school in Honduras in November," Max said, explaining that the school term ends in the fall in Honduras. She intended to go to Montana, but didn't speak English, so she went instead to St. Mary's in Natchitoches January-May to learn to speak English. Her friends who attended St. Mary's talked her into enrolling at Northwestern State where she majored in sociology and was a Tri-Sigma. She graduated in 1985. Max's uncle Roberto attended NSU as an agribusiness major. Because of his family connections, Max has felt at home at Northwestern and in the Natchitoches community.

Max attended a bilingual high school in Honduras and graduated in 2009. He then volunteered for a year for a service organization in a performing arts college for young people with disabilities in Europe. In August 2010, he returned to Honduras. His mother had a reunion at NSU and referred him to NSU's Vice President for University Affairs Dr. Marcus Jones, who has been actively recruiting students from Latin and Central American for the last several years. Max enrolled for the spring 2011 semester as an electronics engineering technology major. He assisted Jones



*Max Matute, center, graduated in May and is shown with his mother, Carla Flores Gomes Fiallos, a 1985 graduate, and Dr. Lisa Abney, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.*

as a translator in coordinating recruiting and exchange programs with schools and universities in Colombia. Matute was able to share his own experiences with prospective students, touting Northwestern State's School of Creative and Performing Arts and the benefits of attending a smaller school.

After graduation Max plans to return to Honduras for the summer and is weighing his options to enroll in graduate school or pursue another undergraduate degree. His interest is in renewable energy and he would like to explore a career in hydroelectricity, solar or wind power.

"Coming from a third world country, power is a luxury not everyone has," he said.

"I know so many people in Natchitoches. My family made a lot of friends over the years," he said. "My kids will be coming here as fourth generation students."

Another legacy, he envisions at Northwestern: "The next engineering building will be named after me."



Kolt Kays, Kyler Halbert, Zack Cockerham and Manton Capers, from left, were named recipients of the David Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship, created by NSU and Pi Kappa Phi alumnus David Morgan. The award recognizes leadership, scholarship and service.

## Four awarded 'Extra Mile' scholarships for leadership, service

Four Northwestern State University students were named Pi Kappa Phi Extra Mile Scholars during the 7th annual David D. Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship Banquet. Recipients are Zack Cockerham of Morgan City, Kolt Kays of Many, Kyler Halbert of Gonzales and Manton Capers of Wortham, Texas, were awarded \$3,000 in scholarships at the event.

The Extra Mile Scholarship are funded by and named for Morgan, a 1973 NSU graduate and alumnus of Pi Kappa Phi's Beta Omicron chapter at NSU. Morgan created the program to inspire students to pursue excellence in academics, campus and chapter leadership, service and employment. Morgan is an entrepreneur, an insurance executive and a leader within his industry and his fraternity. He created the scholarship program in 2008. Since then, the program has furthered the academic pursuits of more than 40 students in awards upwards of \$30,000. It remains the only program of its kind among Pi Kappa Phi's 179 chapters.

Capers is a sophomore majoring in business, Cockerham is a sophomore majoring in history, Halbert is a sophomore majoring in business administration and Kays is a senior majoring in business administration.

Recipients are selected through a rigorous application process that awards points for campus and chapter leadership, grades, employment and a series of essay questions. The program seeks to recognize the effort and seriousness that a student displays in pursuit of academic excellence

and their commitment to applying themselves in the classroom and in life outside the classroom by going the extra mile.

Cockerham credits leadership programs like the Extra Mile for inspiring him to define success for himself.

"Each person has abilities and characteristics that are unique to them and success is taking these abilities and stretching them as far as they can go. There is no universal meaning to the word success. Instead it is something determined by each individual and is achieved when they have given their all and seized every day, utilizing every ability they possess."

Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director of NSU's School of Business, delivered the event's keynote address. Kilcoyne has been at Northwestern State for 26 years as a member of the faculty and administrator. Last year, she was named Louisiana's Technology Educator of the Year by Gov. Bobby Jindal. Kilcoyne shared a list of life lessons that students will not hear in a classroom to help students along their journey and encouraged student leaders to help others be successful.

Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter President Lane Luckie presented the scholarships on behalf of Morgan.

"David has helped launch the careers of countless NSU students and Pi Kappa Phi members," Luckie said. "His story of humble beginnings is truly the American Dream. I know he finds joy in helping others find success for themselves."

# Weaver Scholarship



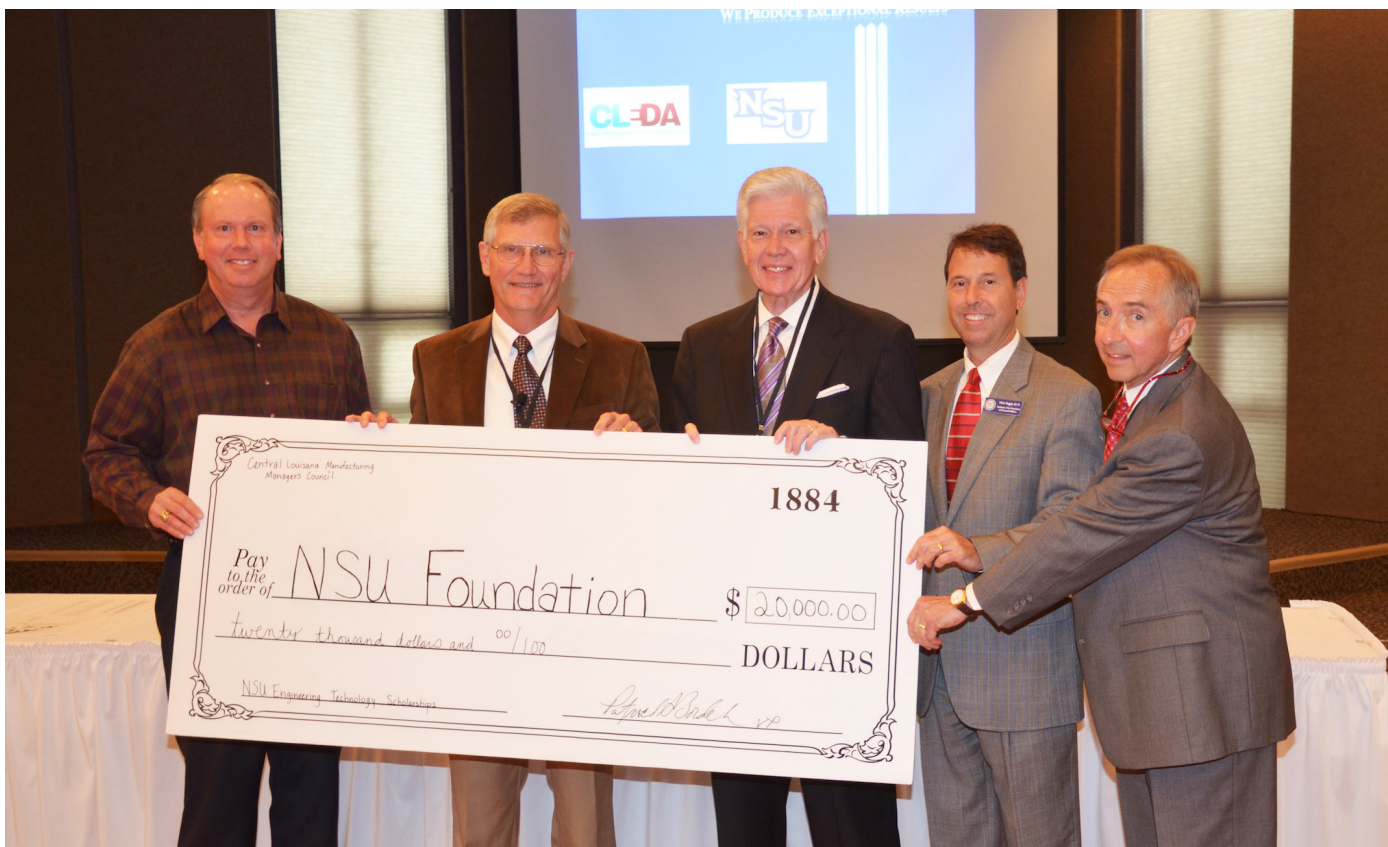
Sheila Parker-McCathran of Vivian was recognized as the recipient of the Weaver Family Scholarship presented to a Northwestern State University student. McCathran is a non-traditional student completing a degree in general studies and was recognized during an Honors Academic Convocation hosted by NSU's College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research. The Weaver Family Scholarship is awarded to a non-traditional student who displays persistence, service and commitment to completing their degree with a monetary award of \$500. From left are Steve Hicks, executive director of NSU's Academic and Career Engagement Center, McCathran with her grandson Tanton and Dr. Sue Weaver.

## LONG Purple Line Endowed Scholarship

Established by Long Purple Line members:  
Carroll Long, Jimmy Long and Gerald Long



The Long family made a pledge to the Northwestern State University Foundation to create the LONG Purple Line Scholarship endowed scholarship. The presentation was made during this year's Long Purple Line induction ceremony. The Long Purple Line is NSU's Alumni Hall of Distinction. From left are 2014 inductee Carroll Long, Jimmy Long and 2014 inductee Sen. Gerald Long.



The Central Louisiana Manufacturers Association presented a \$20,000 check to the Northwestern State University Foundation to support scholarships for engineering technology students at NSU. From left are Mike Wolff, Pat Bordelon, NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Dr. Chris Maggio, executive director of the NSU Foundation, and Wayne Denley representing the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance.

## Manufacturers group supports engineering technology students

The Central Louisiana Manufacturing Managers Council presented a check for \$20,000 to the Northwestern State University Foundation as part of a pledge to support engineering technology programs for students in 10 central Louisiana parishes who are pursuing applied engineering degrees at NSU. Manufacturers in the region hope the initiative will encourage more high school students to pursue careers in engineering technology, where jobs are available as equipment technologists, quality control technologists, process control programmers and other applied engineering roles. Northwestern State offers one of the few four-year technical manufacturing curriculums in central Louisiana.

"With support from the manufacturers organization, we have been able to educate high school students about our programs in engineering technology create awareness about job opportunities that are available here in central Louisiana for students who complete our program," said Vanner Erikson, NSU's assistant director of

alumni and development.

Because of the partnership, NSU was able to award 25 scholarships for the 2012-13 academic year and 21 scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year. Students in Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes are eligible. A similar program is in development with the North West Louisiana Manufacturing Managers Council for students in northwest Louisiana parishes.

**"Even during economic downturns, nearly 100 percent of the students who complete the electrical engineering technology and industrial engineering technology degree program at Northwestern State already have a job when they graduate," Erikson said.**

For information on Northwestern State's engineering technology program, visit [engrtech.nsula.edu](http://engrtech.nsula.edu). To make a contribution to the scholarship fund, contact Erikson at [eriksonv@nsula.edu](mailto:eriksonv@nsula.edu) or call (318) 357-4414.

# Campus News

## CIS program continues tradition of success at AITP and beyond

Northwestern State University's computer information systems program needs to buy a new sign.

Outside of Russell Hall, a sign honors each of the 13 Northwestern State student teams that previously finished first at the Association of Information Technology Professionals National Collegiate Conference and now another team will be recognized as part of a new sign. Seniors Greg Cruice of Marrero and Matt Foshee of Natchitoches won first place in Visual Studio Programming at the 2014 conference held in Atlanta. Adriane Lemoine of Pineville and Jason Wiley of Natchitoches finished third in the category.

Visual Studio Programming is a programming environment in which students can program with several different languages such as Visual BASIC, C-sharp, J, Visual or COBOL. Visual Studio is a commonly used software environment utilized to teach beginning and intermediate programming techniques and logic.

Northwestern State students have won 14 first place awards at the competition over the last 15 years. This

year's conference drew more than 700 participants from 59 colleges and universities. Cruice and Foshee are the Northwestern State team to earn the top spot in Visual Studio Programming. NSU students have finished first in systems analysis, database design and COBOL at past competitions.

"Having this kind of success shows we are on target with what we are teaching," said Instructor of CIS Barbara Russell. "It also lets us know that our students can compete with those from research universities."

Cruice said classes he took at Northwestern State prepared him for the four-hour competition.

"I've had two classes in Visual Studio and 10 programming classes, so I was ready when I got there," said Cruice, who will graduate in May and has a job offer from a major insurance company. "It's clear that they're doing something right in the CIS program."

Foshee, graduated in May, has won seven awards at the conference during his time at NSU.

"About an hour into the competition, only 13 of the 50 teams were still in the running, so I know we had a good chance," he said.

Lemoine will intern at State Farm Insurance this summer. Wiley has interviewed with a major telecommunications firm for a summer internship.

Cruice and Foshee also competed in systems analysis and design, receiving an honorable mention.

To learn more about Northwestern State's program in computer information systems, go to [business.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems-home](http://business.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems-home).

*Two Northwestern State University computer information systems teams recently placed in competition at the Association of Information Technology Professionals National Collegiate Conference. The team of, front from left, Matt Foshee of Natchitoches and Greg Cruice of Marrero finished first in Visual Studio Programming and, back from left, Jason Wiley of Natchitoches and Adriane Lemoine of Pineville finished third in that category.*



# Editors remember days and nights on the Sauce

## 100 CURRENT SAUCE AT

An independent voice for students whose coverage evolved in tandem with cultural shifts and advances in technology is marking its centennial in 2014. Former editors of Northwestern State University's student newspaper, *The Current Sauce*, commemorated the anniversary in March with reflections on how reporting news and producing a student newspaper changed – and remained the same – through the years and how their work at the Sauce provided a foundation for careers in news and other fields.

"Anytime you have good student media you should have diverse and creative students," said Tommy Whitehead, retired professor of journalism and former advisor to both *The Current Sauce* and the *Potpourri*. "This was always the greatest satisfaction of working with publications: the students. Sure they were frustrating, but the energy and productivity were stimulating and made all the commotions and problems recede. The good moments overshadow the headaches and confusion."

Several generations of writers, photographers and journalists cut their newsgathering teeth working for *The Current Sauce*, often their first experience in creating contacts, tracking down leads, reaching sources for quotes and crafting a coherent article.

Kaleb Breaux, editor from 2002-03, joined the staff as a freshman sports reporter with no knowledge of how a newspaper worked and no experience reporting.

"On one of my first assignments, a sports story about our soccer team, I had written something in there about 'quarters.' Soccer matches don't have quarters; they have halves. That's how much I knew exactly," Breaux said. "I stuck with it and adapted. I have taken that idea or quality, the willingness

and ability to adapt to any situation, and applied it to life today. That skill, cultivated in the inner workings of *The Current Sauce* and the NSU Journalism Department, has made me a better employee, husband and father. I am so thankful for that and the folks there, both students and professors, who were a part of that experience."

Breaux was managing editor under editor Rondray Hill on Sept. 11, 2001, an indelible experience for him and his classmates.

"I remember, so vividly, getting the call from Rondray to get to the newsroom as quickly as I could," he said. "We spent hours watching the story unfold. There was so much false information out there when it first happened. I guess so many media outlets were trying to be the first to report new news that they forgot about journalistic integrity. We all just sat in the newsroom helpless. We really didn't know what to do. One of our reporters, Elona Boggs Weston, finally had enough and got up to go interview students to get their reactions about the day's events."

A year later, Breaux and a group of journalism students visited the site of the World Trade Center.

"We stood outside the FOX studios when President Bush made the announcement to go to war in the Middle East," he said.

"My first real exposure to Northwestern came from reading *The Current Sauce* in the library at Jonesboro-Hodge High School in the mid-70s," said Doug Ireland, editor from 1979-80 and NSU's current Sports Information Director. "I could see a student body that was engaged in campus issues and the topics of the day, and a campus scene that was lively and fun. Our staff was committed to informing the students about campus issues, news,

events and providing a vibrant opinions page. We aggressively covered student government and we folded in coverage of local and state government and politics that related to NSU. We tried to uphold and enrich the tradition of quality student journalism at Northwestern and we did it with a diverse staff."

"I worked with some of the most intelligent and creative kids in the five years I advised the paper," said Dr. Steve Horton, dean of the College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research. "Many of those can tout successful careers in journalism and mass communication. I've maintained several friendships with those students since they graduated."

According to a history written by 1984-86 editor John Ramsey, *The Current Sauce* began as a biweekly tabloid newsletter for the Contemporary Life Club, an academic-social club at Louisiana Normal. The name of the paper may refer to the current news or buzz on campus, referenced in a 1915 gossip column that asked "What's the latest sauce?" In 1918, *The Current Sauce* broadened its scope to include the Alumni Association and student body. Coverage became more organized with designated sections for news, sports and entertainment. Through the decades, the paper followed prominent social issues beginning with coverage of the burgeoning feminist movement in 1915 to life on the home front during World War II, the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and America's post-9/11 landscape. It became the official journal of the NSC Student Government Association in 1961, a relationship that, as with many news/government organizations, could be strained. And like other long-running publications, the *Current Sauce* embraced technological advances in printing, from Linotype in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to phototypesetting to digital desktop publishing and an online edition at [nscurrentsauce.com](http://nscurrentsauce.com).

"I was here when the first computer came into our lives, the Apple Macintosh," Whitehead said. "The media had a professional typesetting computer that made lots of noise and slowly cranked out set type but nothing like the speed and ease of operation the

*continued on page 25*

Mac brought to Student Publications. Within several years we were all Mac and entered the age of desktop publishing. The technology was driving content and layout like never before."

Although the independence of the student editorial staff was a point of pride for the Current Sauce, it was not always without controversy.

"There were some incidents where irresponsible decisions on behalf of the students caused me some stressful moments but there were so many more positive moments, many humorous, that made those difficult days insignificant," Horton said. "I've been called on the carpet by those who were affected by stories reported by my students. Many did not then and still do not understand the role of a free student press on today's college campuses. I will admit, though, that college campuses 15 years ago were

very different than those today, so many of those controversial stories from years ago aren't given a second thought in today's society."

There were low times, too, when the university faced financial uncertainties and interest in student publications waned. Joe Cunningham Jr., editor from 1981-83, cobbled together a staff that gathered most of its hard news from the university's News Bureau, but did cover sports, SGA and announcements. There was talk that The Current Sauce might fold, but within two years the paper was running in the black again.

"We used big box computers and we cut out our stories with X-acto knives and pasted the paper together at The Natchitoches Times. We would work until 2 or 3 in the morning," said Cunningham, whose father, Joe Cunningham Sr., worked on the Sauce as a student, and whose son Joseph Cun-

ningham was editor in 2009-2010.

Cunningham was pasting an edition together late one night when he learned that Caldwell Hall was burning. He was soon at the scene and, because of the timing, the first to cover the fire.

"I was able to get close. I wrote the story and put out The Sauce the next morning, so students were reading about Caldwell Hall and it was still smoking. That was the coolest thing we did."

Almost all students who worked on The Current Sauce reference a strong sense of camaraderie among the staff and the value of the experience, whether they pursued a career in journalism or not. After graduation, Breau worked in news and public relations but today is an election services specialist in Dallas. He considered the staff at the Sauce

### Listing of Current Sauce Editors 1914-2013

1914-1915 Ethel Merrill	1947-1948 Wayne Martin	1980-1981 David LaVere
1914-1916 Kate Goshing	1948-1949 Joe Choate	1981-1983 Joe Cunningham, Jr
1916-1917 Grace Moore	1949 Fall Archie Singletary	1983-1984 Lisa Williams Hardamon
1917-1918 Gert Smith	1950 Spring Bob Murphy	1984-1986, 1987 John Ramsey
1918-1919 Frances Gill	1950-1951 J.C. Tillman	1987 Spring Michael Scott
1919-1920 Betty Moore	1951-1952 Joe Saltzman	1988-1989 Greg Kendrick
1920-1921 Lucille Bonham	1952-1953 Lucian Spataro	1989-1990 Sonya Rigaud Johnson
1921-1922 Susan Stewart	1953-1954 Donald Finley	1990-1991 Beth Bowman Tomlinson
1922-1923 Fred Rushing	1954-1955 Avon McBride	1991-1992 Scott Jolley
1923-1924 Jerry Halbrook	1955-1956 Hester Brown	1992-1993 Van Rodney Reed
1924-1925 Harry Spiers	1956-1957 Jerry Byrd	1993-1994 Michelle Genre
1925-1926 Helena deWitt	1957-1958 Marilyn Robertson	1994-1995 Jim Henderson
1926-1927 Una Earnest	1958-1959 Pat Proskowetz Sellers	1995-1996 Jeff Guin
1927-1928 Doris Compton	1959-1960 Frank Caperton	1996-1997 Jane Baldwin Gibby
1928-1929 Wynonah Genius	1960 Fall Annette Wimberly	1997-1998 Andrew Martin
1929-1930 Jeanne Allemann	1961-1962 LaNae Rowell	1998-1999 Tatum Lyles Dutile
1930-1931 Ernestine Willey	1961 Spring Linda Caraway Amberg	1999 Fall Philip Wise
1931-1932 Jessie LeBlanc	1962-1963 Wayne Summers	1999-2000 Shawn Hornsby
1932-1933 Noralee Butler	1964-1964 Robert Gentry	2000-2001 Josh Beavers
1933-1934 Henry Pierson	1964-1965 Duffy Wall	2001-2002 Rondray Hill
1934-1936 Ray Winn	1965-1966 Jerry Brill	2002-2003 Kaleb Breau
1936-1937 Marguerite Hanley	1966-1967 Danny Gayer	2003-2004 Elaine Broussard
1937-1938 Ed Roberts	1967-1968 Diane Nickerson Bates	2004-2005 Garrett Guillotte
1938-1939 Norman Dowty	1969-1970 David Precht	2005-2006 Lora Sheppard
1939-1940 William Rigdon	1970-1972 Bessie Brock	2006-2007 Jamie Webb
1940-1941 Charles Stahls	1972-1973 Niva Davis	2007-2008 Kera Simon Brossette
1942 Spring Louise Hawkins	1973-1974 Ronald Sanchez	2008-2009 Leigh Gentry Guidry
1942-1943 Sam Kendrick	1974-1975 Dan McDonald	2009-2010 Joseph Cunningham
1943-1944 Dale Carney	1975-1976 Shelly Hilton-Pace	2010-2011 David Royal
1944-1945 Marguerite Perkins	1976-1978 Collette Oldmixon	2011-2013 Jimmie Walker
1945-1946 Bobbie Anthony	1978-1979 Debbie Page	2013-2014 Jarred Roberts
1946-1947 Kenneth Dowty	1979-1980 Doug Ireland	2014-2015 Emily Frame

# Athletic News



## Fellow NSU Demon Fans:

A year ago at this time, I referenced momentum by NSU Athletics which was fueled by winning Southland Conference championships in men's basketball, women's tennis and softball.

Also stressed was the importance of seizing the moment and not missing the window of opportunity made possible by these success stories.

With that in mind, here is a look at the nearly completed 2013-14 year:

- Football – won most games since 2008 under first year coach Jay Thomas, as team and junior quarterback Zach Adkins broke single-season passing records.
- Volleyball – had best season in 32-year program history, reaching Southland Tournament finals, and were three points away from first-ever NCAA appearance.
- Women's soccer – won most conference games since 2005 under second-year coach George VanLinder.
- Men's Basketball – finished second in Southland standings, NCAA scoring statistics, and their NCAA Academic Progress Rate was ranked top 10% in the country.
- Women's Basketball – won Southland Tournament and NCAA berth under second-year co-head coaches Brooke and Scott Stoehr.
- Women's Tennis – won Southland regular season; fell by one point in conference tournament title match.
- Softball – won Southland Tournament and NCAA berth for second straight year.
- Baseball – more than doubled win total from previous year under second year coach Lane Burroughs and had chance to win Southland regular season title on last weekend of season.
- Track – long jumper Emmanuel Williams was an NCAA Indoor All-American and sprinter Justin Walker ran the fastest 100-meter dash (9.95) in the world at the Southland outdoor meet.

In addition, NSU's student-athlete graduation rate continued to surpass the 70% mark and NSU student-athletes Amy Williams (tennis) and Quinton Helaire (track) were the Southland's Male and Female Citizenship Award winners.

Suffice it to say that the aforementioned momentum was embraced by our coaches, staff and student-athletes, as well as by our alumni and supporters. Thank you to all who helped establish a record for annual donations to the Demons Unlimited Foundation (DUF) and/or also purchased season tickets and attended fund raising events. You were an important factor in the successful 2013-14 NSU sports year!

With the 2014-15 year on the horizon, our teams will strive to take their success to a new level and support to the Demons Unlimited Foundation must also continue an upward trend. I am hopeful that every NSU alumnus considers a donation, which will help us reach a goal of having at least 1,000 DUF members. You have my promise that NSU Athletics will continue to operate with integrity, with academics as a priority, with a very high competitive spirit, and in a manner which will make you proud!

Thanks for your consideration and Fork 'Em, Demons!

**Greg Burke**  
NSU Athletic Director



## Former baseball teammates join to support Johnnie' Lil Man' Santangelo

**N**orthwestern State athletics and the Demon baseball program hosted a special fundraiser on May 10 supporting former pitcher Johnnie "Lil' Man" Santangelo, a native of Independence whose remarkable battle against a usually fatal form of cancer has taken a very positive turn.

A Demon baseball player from 2006-08, Santangelo was diagnosed in March with a malignant brain tumor and many top medical experts told him it was inoperable. However, his hometown friend Wade Miley, a Major League Baseball star pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks, consulted with the team's trainer, who recommended a consultation from a Phoenix neurosurgeon. Successful surgery was performed in April in Arizona.

An array of fundraising efforts have helped raise support for Santangelo and his family, including the Baseball Alumni Day events at Brown-Stroud Field. His former NSU teammate Justin Morgan threw out the first pitch and several hundred dollars were raised with bidding on some baseball items and donations by fans.

Over 4,000 supporters have joined the "Praying for Johnnie Lil Man Santangelo" Facebook page, which is providing updates on his recovery and on ways to show support.



**Jim Willis** ('67) of Boyce, the first Demon baseball player to reach the major leagues as a pitcher in 1953-54 with the Chicago Cubs, visited with this year's Demon baseball team including coach Lane Burroughs (to left of Willis) on May 10 on Alumni Day at Brown-Stroud Field. Willis, whose No. 28 jersey is retired and displayed along with the other three returned numbers on the outfield wall at Brown-Stroud Field, shared memories of his college days and time in the big leagues with the Demons, and gave pitchers some tips on throwing breaking balls.